Firefighters Ready to Respond to Lightning Strikes

(Yreka, CA) – Firefighters from the Klamath National Forest are keeping a watchful eye out for wildfires that may start as a result of thunderstorms in the area. In addition to local firefighting resources, two Interagency Hot Shot crews from out of the area have been brought in to assist fire managers in responding as quickly as possible to any new starts.

Crews responded to reports of several fires on the Goosenest and Happy Camp/Oak Knoll Ranger Districts on Monday afternoon. Although most of these fires were extinguished by passing rains, one fire on the Goosenest Ranger District grew to almost ¼ acre in size. It was quickly contained; crews will continue to patrol and work the fire until it is declared out. Resources will remain vigilant throughout the week to extinguish any holdover lightning-caused fires that could reignite with drier conditions forecasted for the later part of the week.

"Fuel conditions remain very dry despite the rain we've received," said Curtis Coots, Deputy Fire Chief for the Klamath National Forest. "It's important for Forest visitors to be careful with campfires so that firefighters can focus on any new fires that we may receive as a result of lightning in the area."

For additional information contact the nearest Ranger District or call the Klamath National Forest Fire Information Center at (530)841-4451.

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.